

The American Legion



OFFICE OF THE
NATIONAL ADJUTANT

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Executive Registry

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★ WASHINGTON OFFICE ★ 1808 "K" STREET, N. W. ★ WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 ★

May 28, 1976

Lt. General Vernon A. Walters
Deputy Director
Central Intelligence
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear General Walters:

It is my pleasure to invite you to address the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in Indianapolis, Indiana, the evening of October 6 at the Indianapolis Athletic Club. It is estimated that 400 or 500 people will be in attendance.

The National Executive Committee is the governing body of The American Legion, composed of one principle and one alternate from each of our fifty-eight departments representing all of the states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and six foreign countries. They are the only group improvised to rule on policy matters affecting our Organization outside of the National Convention.

The National Executive Committee has had an unbroken record of support for an effective intelligence service and I am sure you will find them a most interested audience. I am enclosing copy of two resolutions adopted at its Spring meeting in which you might be interested.

The American Legion will reimburse you for expenses and suitable accommodations will be made for you at the Indianapolis Athletic Club. As soon as the details of your schedule are available if you will give them to me we will have a member of our Distinguished Guest Committee meet you upon your arrival in Indianapolis.

We all look forward to the pleasure of having you with us in October.

Sincerely yours,

Wm F. Hauck

WILLIAM F. HAUCK

National Adjutant

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RESOLUTION NO. 22

COMMITTEE: FOREIGN RELATIONS

SUBJECT: ENACT FEDERAL LEGISLATION TO PROTECT OUR
INTELLIGENCE AGENTS IN THE FIELD

WHEREAS, intelligence reports provide valuable information to insure the national security of our country as well as that of our allies. These reports also provide a margin of safety and warning of any hostile act against the United States; and

WHEREAS, the identity of Americans employed in the many fields of the American intelligence system must be protected in order that they may remain an integral part of our security system; and

WHEREAS, recent publications have listed the identity of a member of the United States intelligence network, and after this disclosure he was brutally murdered; and

WHEREAS, this publication has publicly announced that the practice of identifying intelligence agents in their publication will continue in the future, not only damaging our security network and information sources, but could expose this personnel to attacks by enemies of the United States; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 5-6, 1976, that we petition the President of the United States to direct the Congress to provide laws which will protect our intelligence agents in the field, by making any public disclosure of their identities a treasonable act.

RESOLUTION NO. 23

COMMITTEE: FOREIGN RELATIONS

SUBJECT: REAFFIRM AMERICAN LEGION SUPPORT FOR A VIABLE
INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, credible intelligence operations are indispensable to any nation's security and deterrence; and

WHEREAS, there is presently a massive and sustained attack on the American intelligence community which has the effect of discrediting all intelligence operations; and

WHEREAS, these continuing attacks have already seriously impaired the functioning of the CIA, hampering the collection of worthwhile intelligence by the Central Intelligence Agency, and the CIA is also experiencing great difficulty in gaining cooperation from some foreign intelligence agencies; and

WHEREAS, without credible intelligence operations, the United States becomes a blinded warrior incapable of insuring even its own survival; and

WHEREAS, at a time when America's intelligence community has been seriously impaired, the KGB has expanded to an estimated 300,000 agents, domestic and abroad, with close cooperation from intelligence services which it has trained in Romania, Hungary, Cuba and other nations; and

WHEREAS, leaks of legitimately classified information with profound impact on our national security have become commonplace; and

WHEREAS, no Congressional oversight of the intelligence community will be effective in the absence of specific statutes concerning the leakage of classified information which effects our national security; and

WHEREAS, the British Official Secrets Act of 1911, as amended by the Official Secrets Act of 1920, has effectively safeguarded classified information without infringement on civil rights in a free and democratic society; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court recognized the need for safeguarding classified information in the New York Times publication case when Justices Stewart and White concurred that "it is clear...that it is the constitutional

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duty of ~~Approved For Release 2002/03/28 : CIA-RDP79M00467A000200040024-0~~ a matter of sovereign prerogative and not as a matter of law as the courts know law--through the promulgation and enforcement of executive regulations to protect the confidentiality necessary to carry out its responsibilities in the fields of international relations and national defense;" and

WHEREAS, it is obvious that executive orders and regulations alone can no longer control the unauthorized release of classified information; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress faced and responded to similar situations, namely the enactment of 50 U.S.C. 783(b), 18 U.S.C. 798 and the Atomic Energy Act; and

WHEREAS, in the Scarbeck case, the Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia pointed out that the Congress fully intended to permit a prosecution without violating the same national security that 50 U.S.C. 783 (b) was designed to protect; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 5-6, 1976, that we reaffirm our support for a viable intelligence community which adequately advises the U.S. Congress of its major activities and one which operates within the current statutes and safeguards; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that we support enactment of federal legislation which would clarify and strengthen the safeguarding of classified information, and would provide formidable penalties for violation of its provisions; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this legislation must recognize fully the spirit of the Scarbeck case, namely that prosecution under the act should not violate the same national security that the statute was designed to protect; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this legislation should clearly prohibit the classification of information which does not effect the national security of the United States.